Scott. II-27—100,000—21-5-47

F & A (1954) Department

SERIES.

G.O. No	854
Dated	31-8-49

[Despatch Abstract.]

Agriculture - Grow More Food - Tractors - Purchase by the Agricultural Department from private firms - Information required by His Excellency - Furnished - Papers recorded.

No. 1-29/49.
Madras Governor's Camp, Guindy,
Dated the 9th August 1949.

Dear Mr. Shetty,

I am to enclose for your information copy of a letter dated 5th August from the Secretary to Governor-General of India regarding the allotment of tractors to this Province.

This point regarding allotment of 50 tractors out of the 175 was mentioned by His Excellency in his periodical letter to the Governor-General when dealing with the measures for grow more food in this Province. It was in a Press announcement by the Director of Agriculture, Madras. A copy of the letter has been sent to Hon'ble Prime Minister for his information.

His Excellency would be glad to know in due course if this Province has any schemes to buy tractors on our own.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd). P. Govindan Nair.

To

The Hon'ble Sri. A.B. Shetty, Minister for Agriculture, Fort St. George, Madras.

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Copy of Governor-General's letter.

Government House, New Delhi,
5th August 1949.

My dear Govindan Nair,

Would you kindly refer to paragraph 1 of His Excellency the Governor's letter of the 20th July in which he asked that Madras may be allotted 50 of the 175 tractors which he understood India would get from the World Bank.

2. The World Bank have given India a loan for the purchase of tractors on the express condition that they will be used for the specific purpose of Kans eradication and jungle clearance; and the tractors have already been allotted to areas selected as being the best for the purpose. It is therefore not likely that the Madras Government will get any tractors from this allotment. Provinces are of course free to buy their own tractors if they can do so without asking for dollar exchange, from companies importing tractors.

3. I may add however that the Government of India are considering ways and means of utilizing their dollar reserves to the maximum capacity and of making such tractors as are imported available for Government schemes in preference to private persons.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd) S.A. Lal,
Secretary to the Governor-General.

To

Sri. P. Govindan Nair, I,C.S., Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Madras.

No. 1-29/49.

Government House, Guindy, Madras,
17th October 1949.

Dear Mr. Shetty,

Sub:- Supply of tractors to the Government of Madras.

In continuation of my letter No. 1-29/49 of the 9th August 1949, I am to enclose for your information a copy of a letter dated 11th October from the Private Secretary to the Governor-General of India with the note referred to therein.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd) P. Govindan Nair.

To

The Hon'ble Sri A.B. Shetty, Minister for Agriculture, Fort St. George, Madras.

(Copy)

No. 95/GG/49.

Government House, New Delhi,
Dated 11th October 1949.

My dear Govindan Nair,

Would you please refer to paragraph 3 of His Excellenc the Governor's Fortnightly letter dated the 28th August 1949 regarding the supply of tractors to the Government of Madras. The matter was referred to the Ministry of Agriculture and I enclose for the information of His Excellency the Governor, a copy of their note dated the 26th September 1949 which explains the position.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd) S. Krishnamurthi,
Private Secretary to the
Governor-General.

To

Sri. P. Govindan Nair, I.C.S., Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Madras.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.

ub:- Tractors for the Government of Madras.

Fortnightly letter dated 28.8.1949 from His Excellency the Governor of Madras to His Excellency the Governor-General. As regards para 3 of the letter, the position is that the International Bank have agreed to finance the purchase of 23 units of 15 tractors each for reclamation of land infested with kans and 2 units for jungle land. The 23 units have therefore to be allotted to the Central Provinces and Uttar Pradesh, Madhyabharat and Bhopal, where there are large blocks of land which have gone out of cultivation due to kans infestation and none of them could be spared for Madras. The two jungle clearing units have been agreed to by the Bank as an experimental measure to judge the

economics of such a scheme. As this kind of work has already been done on a small scale in the U.P. and some experience gained, it was considered safest to allot both the units to that Province. No tractor units other than those sanctioned by the Bank are being purchased and there is therefore no unit available for allocation to Madras.

2. The Government of Madras have sanctioned the purchase of 100 tractors with necessary implements during the current year from the dollar area and had enquired whether orders could be placed for them, if the Government of India could not spare an equal number. In view of the difficult exchange position with regard to dollars, the question whether substitutes for those tractors were not available in the Sterling area was examined and it was found that most of the requirements could be met from the Sterling area. The Madras Government have been informed of the specifications of the equivalent types and requested to try to obtain all their requirements from the sterling area. To finance these purchases, the Government of India are also prepared to consider sanctioning a loan to the Madras Government provided the loan can be accommodated within the borrowing programme of the Provincial Government for the year 1949-50.

(Sd) S.Y. Krishnaswami,
Joint Secretary.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
Food and Agriculture Department.

Memorandum No. 48414/M/49-2 dated 2nd December 1949.

Sub:- Agriculture - Grow More Food - Purchase of tractors from the Sterling area.

A copy of a note from the Joint Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Agriculture dated 26.9.1949 is communicated to the Joint Director of Agriculture. He is informed that as far as possible purchase of tractors and equipments in future for the Agricultural Department should be from the Sterling area.

Sd. M.A. Kuttalalingam Pillai,
Secretary to Government.

To Joint
The Director of Agriculture, Madras.
Copy to the Commissioner of Food Production with enclosure.

....

/True copy/

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

k.y.s.

Scheme No. 2 of the Five Year Plan for the Grow More Food Campaign provided, among others, for the purchase of 300 tractors during the period from 1947-48 to 1951-52. The Government sanctioned the purchase of 100 tractors in G.O. Ms. No. 1597, Development, dated 31.3.1948 for the first year. Out of these 100 tractors, the Agricultural Department have purchased so far 67 tractors. The remaining 33 tractors are expected to be purchased during the current year.

Early this year, the Joint Director of Agriculture submitted proposals for the purchase of an additional 100 tractors during 1948-49. While these proposals were under consideration, the previous Cabinet cut down the provision made in the Budget Estima for 1949-50 for the purchase of tractors during the current year and decided that no additional tractors need be purchased in future. The proposals of the Joint Director for the purchase of additional 100 tractors during the current year were therefore dropped.

The previous Hon'ble Minister (Agriculture) however wanted that the decision of the Cabinet referred to in paragraph 2 above that no additional tractors need be purchased during the current year should be reconsidered in view of the growing demand for tractors by the ryots all over this Province, and it was going back on the Five Year Plan approved by Government. The Cabinet recently reconsidered the matter and decided that 50 tractors might b purchased during 1949-50 for hiring to the ryots. The Government therefore asked the Joint Director of Agriculture to submit detailed proposals for the purchase of 50 tractors during the current year. The Joint Director of Agriculture has since submitted proposals among others, for the purchase of 50 tractors and 50 bull dozers during the currant year under the provision in the Two Year Plan for the Grow More Food Production. The Commissioner of Food Production, while supporting the proposals of the Joint Director of Agriculture has asked for the permission of this Government to addres the Government of India direct in connection with the procurement of tractors for this Province as he considers that the Government of India should do everything in their hands by way of importing the machines from abroad. The Joint Director of Agriculture has also suggested that the application of Messrs. Larsen and Tobro Limited fo the grant of import licence for importing tractors for the Agricultu Department may be forwarded to the Government of India. These proposals are under consideration separately and it is proposed to accept them. It is submitted that , without waiting for the approval of the Government for corresponding direct with the Government of India in connection with the procurement of tractors, the Commissione of Food Production had addressed the Government of India in the Ministry of Agriculture for the release of 100 tractors including 50 with bull dozer attachments from out of the machines and that are to be received shortly by the Government of India. If these units cannot be made available from among the units under bulk imports, he has requested that necessary import licences may be granted to the Agricultural Department of this Government to acquire these units urgently for the furtherance of the revised plan for reclamatio of wastes in this Province in connection with the Grow More Food production. Apparently the Commissioner of Food Production refers t the tractors to be purchased by India from the World Bank loan. The specification of the 100 units required by this Province are given the Demi-official letters on pages 3 and 7-8 c.f. of (A).

It is seen from the correspondence forwarded by the Private Secretary to Governor in the current file that it is not likely that this Government will get any tractors from the Government of India from the 175 tractors to be got from the World Bank Loan. It is understood from Finance that there are no papers with them for

the purchase of tractors for this Province under the World Bank Loan. In the circumstances stated above, it may be noted that the proposal of the Joint Director of Agriculture for the purchase of 100 tractors, including 50 with bull dozer attachments during the current year amoun to their purchase by the Agricultural Department on their own account and not to ask the Government of India for supply from among the units under bulk imports. For orders.

This may be circulated to Hon'ble Minister (Agriculture) and His Excellency with reference to the enquiry from the Private Secretai to His Excellency the Governor in para 3 of his D.O. on page 1 c.f.

There is no reason why the Government of India should not allot a reasonable number of tractors imported by them with the loan from the World Bank. They say that those tractors were purchased on the express condition that they would be used for the purpose of 'Kans' eradication and jungle clearance and that they have already been allotted to the areas selected as being the best for the purpose. (the bulk of the areas are probably in the United Provinces and to a lesser extent in the Central Provinces and Bombay). The tractors purchased with the loan from the World Bank are probably annexed by the Governmentoffindia to their Central Tractor Pool and lent to the Provincesor States concerned. This Government have not hitherto required a loan of any tractor unit from the Tractor Pool. We want the Government of India to allot for outright purchase some of the tractors imported by them. We must urge upon the Government of India to make available to this Government the due share of tractors imported into the country with the dollar reserves of the country. In future it may be difficult to get tractors through the Manufacturer representatives in this country as the dollar position has become critical. Not only should we urge upon the Government of India to make a reasonable allotment but the Director of Agriculture should try to drop shop up all the available tractors in ready stock with the manufacturers' representatives in this country in order that they may not be sold elsewhere. Quick action is necessary in view of the market developments.

(Incidentally, it does not seem desirable that the Commissione of Food Production should address the Government of India direct on these matters as it would cause confusion. The purchase of tractors is done by the Agricultural Department on the advice of the Agricultural machinery Advisory Committee and with the approval of the Government. It is better that the Commissioner for Food Production is made a Member of that Committee instead of being allowed to address the Government of India direct. Correspondence should as far as possible be through a single channel).

M.A.K.
19.8.1949.

H.M. (Agriculture) A.B.S.
22.8.

H.E. G.S. Returned with thanks after perusal.

P. Govindan Nair
23.8.

The papers may now be lodged.

Please take action on para 2, pages 5-6 above.

x x x

25.8.

Orders at 'M' above:- An extract of para 2 on pages 5-6 above has been taken for separate action. No action seems called for in this file. The papers may now be recorded. For orders.

x x x
30.8.1949.

G.O. Ms. No. 854 dated 31.8.1949.

Agriculture - Grow More Food - Tractors - Purchase by the Agricultural Department from private firms - Information required by His Excellency - Furnished - Papers - Recorded.

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/True copy/

R. Thiagarajan
8.12

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

26/11/83 26.11

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